

Red Cliff's Frog Bay Tribal National Park Receives Governor's Tourism Award for Stewardship



The Governor's Tourism Awards were designed to recognize and acknowledge those in the travel and tourism industry that have shown dedication, creativity, and excellence. Sponsored by the Governor's Council on Tourism, the Governor's Award recognizes and honors people and organizations that have made a significant impact on Wisconsin's Travel and Tourism industry. The Stewardship Award is presented to those who promote sustainability, and this year Red Cliff's Frog Bay Tribal National Park was chosen for the award!

Frog Bay Tribal National Park (FBTNP) is significant to the State of Wisconsin because it has the notoriety of being the first tribal national park in the United States! Many tourists visit the Bayfield Peninsula and Apostle Islands area on an annual basis, but the area lacks sufficient mainland trail systems to support the number of tourists seeking outdoor recreation opportunities. FBTNP provides an additional outdoor recreational activity that is likewise unique due to its location on tribal lands.

In addition to its unique access, FBTNP protects 300 acres of significant habitat area for the next seven generations. This area of protection includes boreal forest, one of the most endangered and fragmented forest types in Wisconsin, an ecologically important coastal estuary, and a 4,000 foot stretch of Lake Superior shoreline that would otherwise be prone to residential development. Repatriation of former reservation lands has long been a top priority by Red Cliff tribal leaders, but after the lengthy struggle to regain ownership at Frog Bay, the Tribe decided to share this magnificent property with everyone who loves the Bayfield Peninsula, Apostle Islands and Lake Superior. It was a monumental decision by a tribal community to first restore tribal lands then allow public access to the property after generations of privatization that prohibited their own access.